

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01161 020008Z
ACTION DLOS-09

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R 311559Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFOREETC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8686

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ATTN: WINSTON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, IC
SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON UNCLOS

REF: USUN 3222

1. DUE TO PREOCCUPATION WITH DOMESTIC GOVERNMENT CRISIS, ICELANDIC PRESS COVERAGE OF SEVENTH SESSION HAS BEEN VERY THIN. ARTICLE IN CONSERVATIVE DAILY MORGUNBLADID AUGUST 20 NOTED RESUMPTION OF UNCLOS AND EXPECTED QUOTE CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT UNQUOTE OVER UTILIZATION OF SEABED RESOURCES. REPORT SAYS PRESSURE BUILDING FOR UTILIZATION, BUT THIRD WORLD INSISTS AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED FIRST SO RICH NATIONS WILL NOT GET MORE THAN IS DUE THEM. PENDING LEGISLATION IN WASHINGTON, BONN, AND LONDON ON UTILIZATION IS MENTIONED, AS IS STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON TO EFFECT UTILIZATION CANNOT WAIT FOR ARGUMENTS OF 156 NATIONS. ONLY OTHER COVERAGE WAS FACTUAL REPORT ON TELEVISION NEWS AUGUST 29 REPORTING US AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY POSITIONS.

2. ONE MIGHT EXPECT MORE ATTENTION TO BE PAID UNCLOS
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BY MEDIA OF MARITIME NATION LIKE ICELAND, BUT FACTS THAT COUNTRY CURRENTLY EMBROILED IN LENGTHY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CRISIS AND UNCLOS DEALING WITH SEABED MINERALS RATHER THAN BREAD-AND-BUTTER ISSUE OF MARINE LIFE HAS PUSHED CONFERENCE TO BACK BURNER. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER COVERAGE OF SIGNIFICANCE.
BLAKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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